



Annual Report 2019

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Card & Book Stall

It has been quite a difficult year for the card shop we use, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' based in Wolverhampton. They have experienced some hard months, laying off one of their shop assistants and generally feeling troubled about their future. I asked Jo Prince for guidance as, although I love having the card stall, I'm not a business woman and needed advice should the Book Shop close. New cards were ordered from another source which have been successful and I appreciated the input from Jo. Having said this, on our last visit to the Book Shop they had changed their supplier for cards, had a much better choice and were of great quality too at a reasonable price. We were informed they had a meeting with their landlords who are trying to help them and reassured them they would be at the premises for the coming year. Thank you so very much for your continued support, I love this calling to serve in this way and pray it will continue.

Marg Nicholls

Churches Together in Burntwood & Foodbank

The Foodbank here in Burntwood is operated by the Churches Together in Burntwood (CTiB). Our work is co-ordinated and overseen by the Cannock and District Foodbank, which is affiliated to the Trussell Trust. In Burntwood alone we have continued to see new referrals for emergency food, though the growth in referrals we saw last year, has now been stabilized. This may reflect the improved distribution of Universal Credit to those in need. We continue to open up for distribution at Emmanuel Church twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes. We have managed to replace our "storage" accommodation by two new cabins due to the generosity of our churches and their subscriptions to CTiB. One acts as a waiting room whilst the other cabin is available to interview clients and distribute food. We continue to be grateful to Linda, Sue and others for their regular commitment to our clients in this area.

Our collection team have increased their commitment by taking on more regular journeys this year. We have collected 2.4 metric tonnes of food donated via Morrisons and our Church since March 2019 and kindly delivered it to our new warehouse at Coniston Hall, Chadsmoor - a figure very much in line with the total donations recorded last year. However, the overall total will be much greater and at least above 3 tonnes, as in times of increased donations, it is difficult to record and check all donations into the warehouse. Thank you for all your generous gifts of food especially at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We still need a minimum of three tonnes of food through our warehouse every month to meet our clients' needs. Thank you also to all our collection team for their continued commitment.

As part of our development as a Foodbank Centre, our church has also provided six volunteers (taken from the old collection team) who now form the Burntwood Distribution Team. Our role is to receive the donated food at the warehouse and transport it to Burntwood for distribution to clients from the Foodbank Cabins. Thank you to those brave volunteers who have overcome the glitches in communication and kept our cabins stocked throughout the year.

This may well be my last report to you, as Lesley and myself are surrendering some of our roles in the next twelve months. Please pray for a successor to be called to this role and for Revd Matt and all the CTiB clergy, as they seek to guide us to discern our calling to new areas of ministry

David Stanton

Deanery Synod

The Lichfield Deanery Synod held four meetings during the year and other than receiving summary reports from the Diocesan Synod and general business, each meeting discussed a main topic as follows:-

FEBRUARY: "Re-imagining Lay Training". The presentation was given by Lindsay Hall (Diocesan Director of Vocation). The training programme will continue to include course work on practical discipleship, and the candidates will be mentored, but this will all take place more locally. The new course aims to support and equip a wide range of people for a wide range of callings

JUNE: "Evangelism through Funerals". The presentation was given by Victoria Moore who is a Life Coach, a Grief Specialist and Director of Project Grief. She said that grief is a normal and natural response to loss or change that occurs in our lives. Grief can be experienced through many aspects of life e.g. death of a loved one, loss, divorce, separation or illness. Those who are grieving need to know they are supported and that it is ok to be sad. Keep in touch and be a Listening Ear.

SEPTEMBER: "Hidden Voices – The Slaves on our High Street". Presented by James Henderson, a member of the Diocesan Transforming Communities Team. He said that there are 136,000 victims in the UK, which include more than 3,000 children. Modern slavery goes on not only in cities and towns but also in rural areas and we need to know what signs to look for e.g. malnutrition, dirty ill-fitting clothes, overcrowded accommodation, forced labour, abuse, baby farming, organ harvesting. We can be observant report any suspicious activity to the police or the Modern Slavery helpline. We must pray that the resources are put in place to tackle the problem and also pray for the victims.

NOVEMBER: "Being an Eco-Friendly Church". Rev. Emma Cooksey and John Polhill helped us to consider our Footprint on the earth by looking at the Theology, the Mission and Climate change as we strive to become an Eco-Friendly Church. There are a variety of ways in which churches can make changes to become more eco-friendly and it was suggested that each church complete the questionnaire provided by David Primrose and the Diocesan Environmental Team to help assess (1) What we are doing and (2) What we could achieve. There are bronze, silver and gold awards available to churches as they achieve certain goals. Quoting Bishop Peter Wilcox, we were reminded that as Christians "The Footprint we leave on earth is God's Footprint."

Annette Haywood, Marg Nicholls, Steve Taylor.

The Drop Inn

The Drop Inn has continued to serve a considerable number of people throughout 2019. It is a great privilege to minister to our regular church members who support us week by week but also to a number of people who come to enjoy the warmth of the atmosphere, to meet new people and to chat. We offer prayer support if this is felt to be appropriate. A growing number of children come with parents, grandparents and childminders and enjoy playing with the toys in the lounge area.

This year we have also welcomed Kathy Coe from Pathway who is available each week to provide help to those who are struggling with issues of abuse.

Our fundraising coffee mornings for Pathway and Macmillan Cancer have continued to be a success. Many thanks to our cake bakers who pull out all the stops to provide extra cakes and to all who come to eat or buy cakes on the day! We have also hosted the two 'Play in the Parks' sessions in August which continue to grow in attendance.

In September two of us attended Afternoon Tea with the Bishop. He is a great supporter of Places of Welcome and 15 groups from the Lichfield area were represented.

Please pray for our helpers who provide such an important service each week that through them others will see the love of Jesus.

Lesley Stanton

Friday Fellowship

September saw the launch of the Friday Fellowship group. The group meet once a month, usually on the first Friday, from 1-3pm. The group is primarily aimed at those in our church family who are of retirement age, although this is by no means exclusive! The meetings incorporate a time of prayer, some sort of activity and a time for refreshments and conversation. All are welcome to come along for some fun and fellowship.

Sharon Broomhall

Light For Children

In 1997, at the age of 21, Helen Roe, a member of St John's, made a visit to Romania. She was so moved after seeing the conditions of the children living in the orphanages and institutions there that she made several more visits and in 1999 decided to settle in the country and volunteer to work with a group of young children in Dersca. These children were later moved to orphanages in Dorohoi and Botosani. From this dedicated work of Helen, the charity Light for Children was formed in 2007 with the objectives: *"The advancement of the Christian faith through the relief of need, hardship or sickness amongst children and young people, resident in or citizens of Romania, by offering social, educational, cultural, medical, emotional and spiritual support according to Christian principles"*.

This work has continued and many lives changed due to the dedication of Helen (and her husband Costel, whom she met and married while working in Dorohoi).

The following report from Helen shows the areas where the charity has been working during the past year:

"Throughout the year, we have continued to fund optician appointments and new glasses, medication, medical tests, dental work and speech therapy, as and when required. We have been able to fund school text books, extra afternoon schooling, as well as sponsorship for outstanding individuals to pursue further and higher education. Wherever possible, we have endeavoured to organise extra curriculum activities to enable the children to experience sport, art and music. The church orchestra continues to rehearse regularly and we have welcomed new members this year, who are as young as six years old.

In the summer of 2019, we were privileged to support a retired fireman from Grimsby, who drove out to Romania in a fire engine, which was donated to a local village. We were also very grateful to receive 10 boxes of new educational toys and games from Alba Aid, Scotland, which have made very popular gifts and useful educational resources in local schools.

Thanks to your kind generosity, we were able to help the children to celebrate Christmas, by inviting them out for a meal and helping with the distribution of shoebox gifts. Many thanks for your continued support."

The Light for Children Committee ask you to continue to pray for Helen & Costel and the work they do with the children, young people and families in their care and thank God for the commitment of Helen to see this work through and unstintingly give of herself. We would also sincerely like to thank St John's Community Church for their continued support, to Helen personally, and to the charity as a whole by allowing fundraising events to take place in the church building and for the encouragement that church members give to these events.

Mary Aplin, on behalf of the Light For Children Committee

Parish Administrator

The office continues to provide administrative backing on a day to day basis to all members of the church, especially those involved in groups, services, voluntary support, and building maintenance. I continue to support Matt in his role as Team Vicar and I continue to help Lisa and J with accounting reports for PCC and Year End procedures. The layout of the office has been reorganised, to provide better accessibility and to also create a private space for anyone requiring personal support, as 2019 has been another demanding year, seeing an increase in need for the pastoral side of the office.

Marie Hiley

Pastoral Care

The ongoing pastoral care of our church fellowship continues to be met in many different ways. Although we have oversight of this area of ministry, we are very much aware of the pastoral support that is continually taking place throughout many areas of our church. Whether it is meeting up with someone for a coffee, making a phone call, or having a conversation in the office, all are important as we care for and support each other.

The re-configuration of the office has created a welcoming and relaxing space where people can pop in to access support and a listening ear.

As a growing church we all have a responsibility to look out for each other and sure that everyone feels valued and encouraged as we share life together.

Our house groups continue to be an essential and important area for pastoral support. This year has seen some changes to the frequency and format of some groups, while others continue as before. What is important is that each group meets the needs of its members. It is hoped that with more flexibility, more people will be able to join together for fellowship and prayer. As ever these groups could not operate without the commitment and care from our house group leaders. A huge "Thank You" to all our leaders for all the support and love they continue to give their members week by week.

The Bereavement Help Point continues to provide an important avenue of support for anyone experiencing bereavement or loss. The sessions continue to take place on Monday afternoons. A core group of people meet regularly, while others come and go as they feel necessary. The feedback received from the group is very positive and indicates how important and valuable the group is to them as they work through their grief. It has been really encouraging to see friendships develop as the group share their experiences in a relaxed and confidential environment. It is an immense privilege for us to be able to be part of this group.

Jane Tennant

Pathway Project

Last year Pathway Project faced a really tough time when we had lost our biggest contract. We were aiming to re-define ourselves, design a new structure and invest our time in re-building our services. Here we are a year on and we are on our way to meeting those targets and we are in a much more stable position. However we still have work to do and can't rest on our laurels.

Our refuges are safe now for another year, thanks to funding awarded by the government. Refuges are a vital service and during the year 18-19 we received 430 referrals. We housed 63 families but sadly that meant that we had to say no to 367 families.

We answered 2337 helpline calls and were able to provide long term support to 605 people. We certainly have remained busy. We are fortunate to have a great volunteer team, and during the year they gave 2248 hours. They supported the staff team by providing peer support. Staff provided 5694 hours of support to adults, children and young people, including 4163 face to face meetings. 59% of our helpline callers referred themselves into the service.



Our team have been amazing in raising additional funding and have run a pop up shop, many stalls including this one in Debenhams who made us charity of the year. They have organised concerts, quiz nights and have also worked with businesses locally to raise funding. Even Nell Gwynne (alias Lesley Smith, Curator of Tutbury Castle) have supported our fundraising efforts. Thank you to those who have attended our events.

We still have our Patron's Scheme for anyone who wishes to support us regularly and we are always happy to welcome new Patrons into the Scheme.

Thanks to additional funding we now have a Risk Reduction Worker, helping women in the refuge to remain safe. Also we have a Mental Health and Domestic Abuse Specialist and a Domestic Abuse and Housing Specialist.

In a recent report on mental health it was identified that there are three main reasons why people feel they can't cope with life. These are:

1. They live in the past
2. They have low self esteem
3. They can't laugh at themselves

Sadly 190 service users told us last year that they had considered taking their own lives.

All of our services aim to work with these issues as well as helping to support with issues of domestic abuse. Our aim is to help people to remain safe and to move forward in their lives.

Our groups are a major part of this. We run:

Self Help Groups – helping service users to understand the dynamics and impact of abuse and how to keep safe in future.

Survive and Thrive – giving women a focus and a voice.

Empowerment Group – building up self-belief and confidence through a range of activities.

Journey to Self-Discovery – encouraging people to re-discover who they are once they are free of abuse, and embracing their strengths and weaknesses.

Life coaching- re-training the brain to learn to overcome trauma.

Art therapy – with themes around personal growth, freedom and healing.

Well-being group- managing well-being, mental health and self-care.



Overwhelmingly our services are designed with our service users, and we are proud to say that we have continued to deliver them with care and integrity. We are still not able to deliver the same service that we did before the loss of funding but we are meeting many needs and changing lives for many people. We also provide the long-term services that are proven to make the most difference.

In the past few weeks we have joined with St John's Community Church to provide a safe and welcoming environment for anyone wanting to discuss any issues with abuse. Talking Point, run by

Kathy Coe, is a point of contact, support and information. This gives us a service in Burntwood for those who can't easily travel to Lichfield. Thank you to everyone in the Drop Inn team for being so welcoming and to Matt for allowing us the space to do this.

Kathy Coe MBE

PCC Secretary's Report

Well, what a year! There have been some really exciting times, and of course challenging ones too with sadness in the mix but in all of this its been great, I've loved every single meeting with a wonderful committee of people.

Our first meeting following our APCM came on Monday, 20th May, 2019. Rev Matt welcomed everyone to this new season of PCC meetings and congratulated those newly appointed. Within our Reports, Elaine Betts welcomed Nigel Procter as new Churchwarden following the retirement of Les Careless.

Lots of positive discussions took place particularly regarding Children's Ministry, the increase on our Electoral Roll register and our Community Links with Friends of Chase Terrace Park.

JULY, 2019

Our Meeting took place on Monday 15th July, 2019. Discussions took place regarding a new Dementia Friendly and Fellowship group which would begin September/October 2019.

Our Reports were discussed including Wardens Report, Electoral Roll, Deanery and Diocesan Synod and Burntwood Chase Team.

Our Treasurer shared detailed information within his report and Rev Matt gave a Children's Co-Ordinator report on behalf of Lottie Backhouse. New screens were also discussed together with our building extension and also our Mission Action Plan.

A decision would be made regarding New Year at our September meeting.

SEPTEMBER, 2019

Our September meeting took place on Monday 16th September, 2019 with a full Agenda for discussion by our PCC. Among these discussions, a decision was taken for the New Years Eve celebrations not to take place in Church this year but would possibly take place at the Scout Headquarters on Ironstone Road.

Our Churchwarden, Nigel Procter gave details of various jobs which had been completed within Church including LED Lights and a new television screen. It was advised there had been one applicant for the position of Team Rector to be based at Christ Church Burntwood and the interview would take place on Tuesday, 24th September, 2019.

There were lots of positive reports given particularly with reference to Play in the Park.

A very exciting discussion took place with regard to our Church Building and possible development. Rev Matt issued possible ideas for plans and gave an excellent PowerPoint showing various possibilities available.

NOVEMBER, 2019

Our November meeting came with lots of encouragement for each other as we were approaching this busy season of Christmas and the need to be gracious, kind and understanding of each other.

Discussions took place within our Report section; Wardens, Electoral Roll, Burntwood Chase Team, Safeguarding and Treasurers Report including a discussion regarding contactless giving. Our Deanery Synod Representative, Annette Haywood gave an excellent report regarding Deanery Synod, keeping us all well informed of activities within our Deanery with particular reference to a presentation by James Henderson regarding Human Trafficking being both informative and distressing. Details of our Diocesan Synod was also given by Annette keeping us up to date with our Diocese.

Positive reports were given by Rev Matt concerning our Children's work within Church and the excitement of our Nativity with 30 children being involved.

Various items were discussed regarding our Church Services and would be discussed in more detail at a later date. A possible new group was discussed namely 'Friday Fellowship' which Sharon Broomhall would be organising along with Kathy Coe and would report back during further PCC Meetings.

JANUARY, 2020

It does always take my breath a little when we pray before our meetings but in this new decade even more so; encouraging us to actively share our faith, energy and enthusiasm bringing appreciation of God's goodness as we see him at work in other people's lives.

Discussions took place regarding our Building Development, waiting feedback and further opportunity for discussions with various people involved in this venture.

Our Treasurer, Jay Haywood always produces a most detailed report with a summary given to everyone. There have been teething problems with our Contactless giving but these have now been resolved. Acknowledgement and thanks for the Treasurer and Accounts team were given.

Rev Matt shared information regarding becoming an Eco-Church and the need to have formal commitment from our PCC and advised there are Gold, Silver and Bronze awards given. This was proposed, seconded and voted 'All in Favour' by our PCC.

MARCH, 2020

What an extraordinary meeting this was, the beginning of our Coronavirus Pandemic, correct procedures to take, distancing, organisations cancelled within our Church and an extreme sadness shown by our PCC.

Our meeting took place in the Worship Area, seats appropriately placed and our Bible reading taken from Philippians 4: verse 7 'Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard our hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.'

Rev Matt gave a detailed report of what would happen during this time; all church-based activities would cease and external hirers have cancelled their bookings for the foreseeable future. Our church office would be open at the discretion of Marie with the need to answer enquiries etc. Rev Matt advised he would put together a weekly web-based service with prayers, songs, talks etc. There would

be an extension of our Pastoral Team enabling constant contact by telephone with our congregation checking on welfare, needs and a general talk keeping us all together.

Agreement was made by our PCC to stop all Church based activities until official advice permits otherwise.

Detailed discussions took place regarding our Treasurers report including our Tithe giving and Staff salaries both of which were agreed on our Treasurers recommendations.

With regard to our Children's work, Rev Matt raised the prospect of new roles for this Ministry; Children's Ministry Worker and Children's and Young People's Ministry Enabler. The post of Children's Ministry Worker held by Lottie Backhouse and a new appointment made for Children's and Young People's Ministry Enabler.

Our Sunday services were discussed with particular reference to our 8.30am service and, although recognised as a precious Service by many, it was agreed with sadness for this Service to cease. Different times would be in place for both the 10.30am and 6.30pm Services of 10.00am and 6.00pm respectively.

All our meetings end in prayer but after this particular meeting the words of The Grace was shared by everyone.

Marg Nicholls

Planned Giving

The Church budget is based on our planned giving. The regular giving by standing order or envelope, tax payer or non is therefore essential to the life of our growing church ministry.

Gift Aid giving totalled £56467. 48 folk give by standing order and two by envelope. One person regularly uses the white envelope, these can be found in the foyer and at the back of the hall. On this giving we can claim 25% tax, approx. £14000 for this year. I claim twice a year using the tax year i.e. April – September and October – March.

Non-Gift Aid giving totalled £8654. 17 give by standing order and one by envelope.

Freewill totalled £8066.22 and HMRC allows us to claim 25% tax back on the first £800. Freewill isn't included when preparing our budget as by its very nature it isn't regular income. If you are a taxpayer but not a regular giver please do use the white envelope.

This is a **total of 69 folk regularly giving which is 66 households**. This is just an increase of three on last year. Although numbers giving have remained fairly static the actual folk giving has changed and includes newcomer, folk who've moved away, changes in circumstances and sadly those who have died. We have approximately **108 households regularly attending St. John's**. if you don't currently give regularly whether a long-standing member or relatively newcomers please do prayerfully consider contributing financially to the many growing ministries within our church. Could you perhaps consider giving up four Costa coffees (approx. £10) a month to help support this amazing growth especially within our children's work? I do appreciate that on households there are many financial demands and difficulties. Please remember that at any time changes can be made either to reduce or increase your giving. No-one wants anyone within our fellowship to struggle or have difficulties because of their giving.

My thanks to those who support my work either by counting money, recording attendances etc. and most of all a 'A great big thank you' to those who generously give. Without you God's work couldn't happen in our church and community

Sue Southall

Prayer

As we enter into a new decade, our prayer life continues to underpin our outreach and our endeavours to care for those in need, we can once again give testimony that the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully within and through our fellowship. But it is good to remember that there is always more where God is concerned, consequently, our prayer life must not remain static, but continue to grow in vibrancy, intimacy and desire for more. And in this respect we have now dedicated the first Sunday evening at 6.30 of each month as a time to meet together to pray over the ministry here at St. Johns, for needs of our community and peoples individual needs.

The prayer focus booklet is produced every three months and available to everyone, please do pray over all the issues that affect our ministry and outreach here at St. Johns. There is also the Team Intercessory Prayer guide detailing the specific prayer points for the churches of the Benefice.

Elaine also leads a prayer group for the ministry of Open Doors and the needs of persecuted Christians all around the world. If you would like to be part of this group, then please do speak to Elaine. A time of reflective prayer which is focuses on listening rather than speaking takes place in the lounge at 7.30am each Saturday morning, and all are welcome to simply turn up and join in.

We would always encourage people to pray for and with each other and we also have a Prayer Team which continues to meet before each Sunday service and offers confidential prayer ministry during and after the service. New members are always welcome to join our prayer team, if you feel drawn towards this ministry, we would love to hear from you.

Within this fellowship we also have a Deeper Healings Ministry Team which operates in tandem with our Pastoral Care Team in providing extra support for those who need more than can be given during our Sunday services. This is a form of ministry seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance for the root cause of all aspects of sickness in body, mind, soul or spirit in order for healing not simply to be applied to the manifest symptoms, but also into the root cause from which the symptoms are manifest.

Paul wrote to the church at Colossae and told them how Epaphras was always wrestling in prayer for them, that they may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. (Colossians 4:12-13) He prayed as a warrior. The word wrestling that is used in the text, mean he was battling and fighting against principalities and powers in the heavenly realms in the power of God on their behalf.

This is the principal that underpins the intercessory prayer group that was for many years led by Christine. This is the only prayer group that is closed to anyone other than its members and this makes it a safe place where people can ask for prayers especially in situations that they want to be kept private in every sense, knowing that confidentiality is assured.

The intercessory prayer group now operates through a secure WhatsApp group that is accessible only to its nine members and because communication is instantaneous, prayer request can be prayed over without any delay. We can testify that we have seen many wonderful answers to our prayers of intercession. For intercessory prayer requests please speak to either Val Renowden or Les Careless.

And finally a reminder that our prayer life should always focus not on what we may do for God in order that we may build, grow and prosper our church here at St. Johns, but rather on what God may do through us as he builds, grows and prospers his church here at St. Johns.

Bill Humphries

Safeguarding

This year we have continued to ensure that all our volunteers and leaders are up to date with DBS checks and have accessed Safeguarding training either online or at sessions provided by the Diocese. The Church of England has extended their requirement to encompass all PCC members and pastoral leaders in the church, to complete basic Safeguarding courses. Senior group leaders, Clergy and Lay Readers have now completed the Leadership course. We also held another training session at St. John's to which all the churches in the Benefice were invited.

As I relinquish the role of Safeguarding Co-ordinator please pray for Kathy Louis who will take over the role and also for Sue Southgate and Jack Boardman who will support her.

Please pray for protection for all the members of our Church as we work in the community to share the Good news of Jesus' love, for Matt and Gemma, for those who have leadership roles and for the many volunteers who work with our children's groups. We pray too for the vulnerable and young people who regularly attend our groups that they will be kept safe.

Lesley Stanton

Treasurer's Report

Overall St John's remains financially stable after a year that saw its overall accounts reduce by -£2,619. The church's bank balance (net of outstanding creditors and debtors) was £43,462 (compared to £47,056 the previous year). Total Net Assets (bank balances + assets) sits at £152,929, the majority of which is the £109k held by the diocese in trust from the sales of the church rooms.

Income & Giving: Total income for the year was £123,255 (+£4,260 on the previous year), with the main increases coming from increased giving and statutory fees.

Activities including clubs (Little Friends, YPC etc), fundraising activities (Christmas fayre, barn dance etc) and church room hire, brought in a combined income in the year of £22,118.

On behalf of the PCC, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all those involved in the running, administration and participation in any of these activities, as well as to all those who give faithfully and regularly to the running of the church.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £125,874 (a reduction of -£1,078 on the previous year). Increases in the parish share and wages were mostly offset by reductions in church running expenses, particularly due to no major repairs required to the church building.

St John's continued to be able to support other local, national and international charities and causes through its tithe. Supporting Light For Children, Pathway, Food Bank, Novi Most, UCB, and The YouthNet. The church was also able to give one-off payments to Spark Burntwood and set aside £1000 for Friends of Chase Terrace Park.

All in all, a solid year where the church accounts remain stable, albeit with some slight deductions over the past 2 consecutive years.

Do please continue to keep the PCC in your prayers as it best seeks to balance what the church can afford, with the growing ambitions of the church and the growing needs of the community it supports.

J Haywood

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

1. Reference and administration details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, St. John
Known as: **St. John's Community Church**
Charity No: **1131458**
Secretary: Margaret Nicholls, 'Ewlyn', Buds Road, Cannock Wood, WS15 4NB

PCC Members (Trustees) Attendance 2019-20

Name	Elected	Period	Term End	05/19	07/19	09/19	11/19	01/20	03/19	%
Elaine Betts (W)	2019	1	2020	P	P	P	A	P	P	83%
Nigel Procter (W)	2019	1	2020	P	P	P	A	P	P	83%
Sharon Broomhall	2017	3	2020	P	A	P	P	P	A	66%
Annette Haywood (D)	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Marg Nicholls (D) (S)	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Steve Taylor (D)	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	A	A	A	50%
Jane Tennant	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	A	83%
Jay Gascoigne	2018	3	2021	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Ian McKeown (LC)	2018	3	2021	A	P	P	P	P	P	83%
Ellen Nicholls	2018	3	2021	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Mark Tennant	2018	3	2021	P	P	P	P	P	A	83%
Jay Haywood (T)	2019	3	2022	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Kathy Louis	2019	3	2022	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Lin Richards	2019	3	2022	P	P	A	P	P	P	83%
Steve Richards	2019	3	2022	P	P	A	P	P	P	83%
Matt Sutton	2019	3	2022	A	P	P	A	P	A	50%
<i>Clergy Members:</i>										
Revd Matt Wallace	<i>Team Vicar</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Key: P Present X Absent A Not Present (Apologies received by the Trustees) R Retired/Resigned W Churchwarden D Deanery Synod Representative T Treasurer S Secretary LC Lay Chair n/a Not Applicable										

Names and Addresses of Bankers

Alliance and Leicester Commercial Bank, BBAM Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside G10AA
 HSBC, 20 Market Place, Cannock, WS11 1BX

Independent Examiner

Mr. Jonathan Hill, Director of Finance, Diocese of Lichfield.

Incumbent

Revd Matt Wallace (Team Vicar)

2. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. In 2009 we registered with the Charity Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of the 2006 Charities Act.

All members of the PCC are thereby "TRUSTEES" of the Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. New trustees are informed of their responsibilities, and all trustees are regularly reminded of them.

The PCC is the decision making body of St John's Community Church and in accordance with the requirements of church law it has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church property and grounds of St. John's Community Church at High Street, Chase Terrace, and St John's Churchyard on Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace. At the present time some of the PCC's duties and functions in respect to the maintenance of the Churchyard have been assumed by Lichfield District Council; however we still have a duty to ensure that memorials are safe and that the Churchyard is in good order.

Since 2000 there has been a Mandated Ministry Team to work alongside the incumbent. In July 2011 the Diocese initiated a new structure to recognise shared leadership in a parish: The Mission and Ministry Covenant. At its meeting in July 2011 the PCC passed the following resolution: *This PCC affirms our commitment to shared ministry and resolves to accept the Bishop's invitation to enter into a Covenant under the terms of the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Covenant scheme.* At the same meeting the PCC approved an extended Ministry Team based upon the structure identified in our Organisation Review process and delegated this team to *"develop mission and ministry in this parish."* The new team assumed responsibility in September 2011, with various personnel changes as appointed by the PCC over subsequent years.

As of 5th March 2016, the benefice of Burntwood, Chasetown, Hammerwich and Chase and Boney Hay was established, known as the Burntwood Chase Team. Christ Church, St Anne's, St John the Baptist and St John's Community Church have subsequently been working closely together as a Team Ministry. Until her resignation in September 2018, the benefice was under the leadership of the Team Rector, Revd Marg Mattocks. The post of Rector is currently in vacancy. All clergy and readers have been licensed to the whole benefice.

As Team Vicar with responsibility for the parish of Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, Revd Matt Wallace works in partnership the churchwardens, Mr Nigel Procter and Mrs Elaine Betts, Mr William Humphries, Dr Ian McKeown (Licensed Readers), the Trustees and the Ministry Team. Other voluntary leaders also cooperate with the incumbent to exercise responsibility in many different ways as they work together to carry forward the mission of the church.

St. John's Community Church has a Church Office, and administration is carried out by a part-time paid Parish Administrator and other volunteer helpers. The Trustees are committed to encouraging all members of the church to play an active part in its life. All appointments of staff employed to work for any ministry associated with St. John's Community Church are confirmed by the Trustees, and they have ultimate responsibility for all financial matters. Volunteer and paid staff who work with children or vulnerable adults are required to complete a Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check. The PCC have final responsibility for oversight of Safeguarding.

3. Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £29,605. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £42,844 which is higher than this target.

4. Safeguarding

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

5. Risk Management

The Church Wardens carry out regular Health and Safety Reviews and regularly inspect premises for potential hazards. We have safeguarding policies in place for child protection and for work with vulnerable adults, including rigorous DBS checking of staff and volunteers. Our insurances are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover. An informal review of any new risks which may impact the work of the Church in the Parish is ongoing.

6. Related Parties

Donations from Related Parties

Donations from related parties during the year totalled £9,477. All these donations were received without conditions.

Remuneration paid to Trustees

Mrs M Nicholls, the secretary to the PCC worked as a cleaner during the year.

Expenses paid to Trustees

2 trustees were reimbursed £1,209 for travel and subsistence during the year.

7. Objectives and Activities

The object of the PCC of St John's Community Church is to fulfil the functions as laid down in law, namely to co-operate with the Incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - (PCC [Powers] Measure 1956)

Our aims have been set out in the policy document entitled "*The Way Ahead*" and agreed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting in April 2000. The values contained in this document represent the ethos of this charity - **Worship, The Bible, Prayer, Serving, Relationships and Evangelism**. We regularly review our activities, evaluate our performance and determine our priorities in the light of these shared values and commitments. Our mission statement is "*To love God and other people in the name of Jesus, and to live each day in the power of his Holy Spirit.*"

Those who are employed by the Trustees (either in a paid or voluntary capacity) are expected to work in accordance with the values of this charity and be supportive of its aims.

Statement on Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

The trustees believes that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, St. John, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:-

Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers: and Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

In accordance with the requirements of the Diocese of Lichfield, the PCC formulates a Mission Action Plan (MAP) to indicate some specific activities and objectives for the ensuing year(s). The MAP has been reviewed and agreed by the Trustees. The MAP is submitted to the Diocese, and responded to by an appropriate officer or representative. The MAP for 2017-2022 is below:

Mission Action Plan 2019-2024

Vision:

1. Our aim is to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind & strength, & love our neighbours as ourselves. Our vision is to build on existing work in establishing St John's Community Church as a **hub for the whole community**: a place & people of welcome, meeting, hospitality, friendship, pastoral care, worship, prayer, discipleship & mission.
2. **Mission is our shared responsibility** - the role of the church is to enable, equip & encourage that mission, through the power & inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship:

3. **Identify, train & empower leaders** - encourage involvement in church services, pastoral care, mission, small groups, children's & youth ministry; including commissioned, licensed, employed & ordained roles
4. To develop ways of helping **newcomers/seekers** to discover their place within the church/faith (e.g. Welcome Events, Nurture Groups etc)
5. Continue to resource & develop **discipleship** through services & House Groups, & to explore how best to disciple children & young people alongside existing provision.
6. Establish & develop regular **evening services/gatherings** for discipleship, prayer, worship
7. Develop **prayer life** of church - regularity, range, opportunities etc
8. Work on raising profile & priority of **financial giving**, including contactless giving.

Building:

9. Continue to improve **AV system & lighting** in church
10. To plan & build an extension, including the re-fitting of the **church kitchen**
11. Establish a **welcome/information point** to connect people to the life of the church
12. To reduce our **carbon footprint** & eradicate **single use plastics**

Community:

13. Build on **hospitality, socials, meals, fun times** - create opportunities for people to **share stories**, develop support & deepen friendships.
14. Develop the **church website & social media** to improve our accessibility & communication
15. Continue to seek a sustainable plan for **Burntwood Chase Team**
16. Develop **community links & partnerships** with Burntwood Town Council & Lichfield District Council (particularly through 'Friends of Chase Terrace Park'), schools, scouts, events, social media/website links etc

8. Achievements and Performance

There were 183 members on the Church Electoral Roll at December 2019. Just over half of our members live in the parish, with a minority living outside the ecclesiastical parish boundary. Every member does not attend every Sunday due to family and work commitments. For 2019, our Average Sunday Attendance figures (calculated according to Diocese of Lichfield requirements) were 133 adults and 31 young people under the age of 16. These figures do not represent the total number of people attending during the week, as many visitors and attendees are not counted in the official returns. The higher attendances on special occasions are an indication of our strong relationships among the people of the community we are called to serve.

The Diocese of Lichfield also require another measure to indicate our impact on the life of the local community and asked us to compile figures for 'Worshipping Community'. A member of the Worshipping Community is someone who attends an activity that includes at least an element of worship. On this measure our Worshipping Community figures are as follows:

Adult	(18+)	350
Young People	(0-10)	230
	(11-18)	60

These figures give a good indication of the extent of our weekly contact with people in the parish. Our Christmas Eve/Christmas Day services enjoyed an attendance of over 440 people, with well over 2000 people in attendance for various services during the month of December.

On Remembrance Day attendances were even higher than the previous year, with just under 600 people present in church for the morning service. These figures give a useful measure of our connection with the life of the community we serve.

Special occasions are only one measure of the connection of this church with the town as a whole, and there are many contributions made by our members to civic and community life. Members of this church serve as school governors at local primary schools in the parish; act as trustees of other charities, and contribute to community life in many ways.

We are committed to worship in ways that are accessible to and relevant for the whole community and we value each of the styles of worship that we offer to meet the differing needs of those we seek to serve.

Members of this congregation support the Cannock and District Foodbank, and this initiative continues to be generously supported by church members via our weekly collections of food. As a church we also offer financial, practical and prayer support to 'Pathway Project' - a charity which works with victims of domestic abuse; 'Light for Children' - a charity which works with disadvantaged young people in Romania; 'Novi Most', a charity which builds bridges between disparate youth in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and various other charities including The Youth Net, Link For Life, and United Christian Broadcasters (UCB).

In terms of the year itself, in January 2019 the main topic under consideration by the PCC were quotes received for replacing the wooden windows in the church building with UPVC, at a projected cost of c£35,000. Any work done will need to permission by faculty. In addition, work was carried out to repair our lightning conductors and install 5 additional rods, costing £2,000.00. Also, a February 2019 town meeting was planned for ascertaining local support for setting up a 'Friends...' group to oversee community management of Chase Terrace Park, next door to the church building. On Sundays, the sermon series looked at 'Big Topics' – Sin, The Cross, Heaven, Hell, and Mission.

In February, work was approved by the PCC and a faculty granted for maintenance work to be done on the Grade II listed war memorial outside the church building. Cleaning was undertaken by Midland Conservation Ltd, and a grant of £1,000.00 was received to pay for the work from Staffordshire County Council.

The Town Meeting re: Chase Terrace Park went well, with over 70 people signing up to volunteer with helping to take things forward in terms of maintenance and management. A committee was formed from those coming forward to help.

In March, a grant of £200.00 for a new television in the office was awarded from Burntwood Town Council. PCC members were also informed of the requirement for them to complete Diocesan Safeguarding Training online, and our updated Safeguarding policy was adopted by the PCC. We started a new Sunday sermon series called 'Go Compare', comparing certain Bible events and passages side by side.

In April, Ellie Sutton resigned as Youth Minister on health grounds – a resignation which was accepted with regret. Ellie had been struggling with her mental health for a while and the pressure of the role was proving to be detrimental to her wellbeing. Ongoing pastoral support including counselling was offered to Ellie.

We had school visits from Holly Grove, Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, whilst our Good Friday Workshop had a capacity 60 children attending. April saw 180 attending our worship on Easter Sunday. New appointments to the PCC and Deanery Synod were made at the APCM, along with church wardens Nigel Procter and Elaine Betts. The vacant role of Rector of Burntwood Chase Team was advertised, but no applicants were forthcoming.

In May, we updated our Mission Action Plan, and the launch of a new evening service and a 'Friday Fellowship' group was discussed. A new discipleship group on Mondays for Years 7-9 called 'F'n'F' was launched.

In June/July, a new Sunday sermon series 'Beyond The Sea' got underway, a new contactless giving terminal for church was approved, and the PCC agreed to the purchase of a replacement TV for the worship area. Parish Administrator Marie Hiley completed her 9 month 'Skilled Pastoral Carer' course through St John's, Nottingham.

August saw over 40 church folks attend Naturally Supernatural conference in Stafford, and 'Play in the Park' events took place in Chase Terrace Park, at which the church provided free drinks, craft activities, and fed over 1000 people with a free BBQ. We also held a church picnic in Chase Terrace Park.

In September, our Sunday series unpacked what made faith in Jesus 'Life Giving'; Curry Club re-started at Aashiq's restaurant after a summer break. A decision was taken to not hold a New Year's Eve Party this year, & instead 1st Chase Terrace Scouts would be approached to host one. New LED lights were installed in the hall to replace strip lights, & along with some other light maintenance work, the cost came to £2,156.53. One application had been received for the vacant Rector post after it was re-advertised, and the familiarisation day and interview took place this month. An appointment was not made.

In addition, early stage discussions were had with our architect and with the PCC about a possible extension to the church building to accommodate our growing children's work and congregation.

In October, we celebrated Harvest, and enjoyed another Curry Club night at Aashiq's. Plans were put in place to re-draw the profile for the still unfilled vacancy for the post of Team Rector. The PCC gave £1,000.00 to Sparky's Den towards their community work.

In November, around 600 people attended our Remembrance Sunday services in church and for the Act of Remembrance outside.

In December, the Christmas Fayre was held in church, with many hundreds of people attending, whilst the church was packed out for various Christmas schools services as well as the Christmas Workshops. The church building was used as a polling station for the General Election. Our Carol Service was attended by record numbers, and for the fifth year running, we held a Christmas Day Lunch in church for local people from the community who would otherwise be on their own, serving Christmas dinner to over 60 people. A band from church also played Christmas songs on Christmas Day in The Victoria pub.

During the year, along with training courses for Lottie Backhouse and Marie Hiley, Matt Sutton continued to explore a calling to ordained ministry with regular meetings with the DDO.

Our Sunday services continue to develop, mixing worship, teaching, prayer and fellowship. Our ministries among children, families and the elderly, through *Little Friends*, *Little Singers*, *YPC clubs*, *F'n'F*, *Sunday Stars*, *The Drop Inn* and *Chase View*, have enabled us to make a positive contribution to the lives of many families in this area. Bereaved families also continue to receive pastoral visits following funerals, whilst our *House Groups*, *Prayer Groups*, *Curry Club* and *Men's Breakfasts* continue to be well attended and offer support, encouragement, learning and discipleship opportunities.

The Drop Inn has continued throughout 2019 and has grown steadily in numbers over the course of the year. The ministry aims to extend a welcome to local residents by offering a welcoming environment and a listening ear while visitors can enjoy tea/coffee and homemade cake. The Trustees recognise the debt of gratitude owed to the volunteers who staff this initiative week by week throughout the year.

The church building continues to be a community resource, with numerous user groups hiring the facilities on a regular basis, including Burntwood Chase Heritage and Slimming World, along with various training, dance and Zumba groups.

2019 has been a year of change and growth, particularly with the continued development of the *Burntwood Chase Team* and the Team's adjustment to a long-term Rector vacancy. We have seen continued numerical growth at our 10.30am Sunday service, although our 8.30am has shown signs of decline and will be a topic

for consideration in the year ahead. However, along with growing midweek groups and an increasing Electoral Roll, there is much to be excited about as this next year unfolds.

The full PCC met 6 times during the period shown. There has been an average level of attendance of **85%**. Committees and smaller meetings of various Ministry Team members met between PCC meetings, and minutes of their deliberations were received and discussed by the full PCC where necessary.

Through the faithfulness of our members and with responsible management of resources, the Parish Share for 2019 has been paid in full. The Trustees have maintained the financial stability of the church, and there has been a rise in both planned gift-aided and non-gift aided giving, including the introduction of a contactless giving unit. There are still considerable financial challenges to face if we are to sustain and grow our ministries in this community and we recognise the need for careful planning, monitoring of expenditure and cash flow forecasting.

The trustees know that the year ahead will bring with it fresh challenges, but have trust that God will enable us do all that he calls us do.

Revd Matt Wallace

Team Vicar and Chair of the PCC